

**METHOD AND SYSTEM SUPPORTING  
REAL-TIME FAIL-OVER OF NETWORK SWITCHES**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An example embodiment of a system for providing fail-over between switches in a network may include a switch having a server-side port and a fail-over circuit in communication with the server-side port. The switch may also include a status circuit, in communication with the fail-over circuit. The switch may also include a switch-side port. The status circuit may communicate the link status of the switch-side port to the fail-over circuit. In response to receiving a link status of down for the switch-side port, the fail-over circuit may automatically disable the server-side port. A related system may include more than one switch, and the system may automatically fail-over from a first switch to a second switch, in response to the disablement of the server-side port in the first switch. At least one related method is also described.